



CITY OF CARLSBAD
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Police

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF CARLSBAD POLICE DEPARTMENT

For immediate release

Nov. 16, 2011

Carlsbad Police Collects New Stuffed Bears for Annual Bear Drive

Carlsbad, CA - The City of Carlsbad Police Department and other county-wide law enforcement agencies are collecting new stuffed animals for the 21st annual Teddy Bear Drive. "Officers hope to collect 100,000 bears and other stuffed animals to cheer some very sick children," stated Kari Ketchum, Carlsbad Police Dispatcher and organizer of Carlsbad's participation. "The stuffed toys will be delivered to Rady Children's Hospital on Dec 13, 2011."

The teddy bear drive began in Dec. of 1990, when Coronado Police Officer Brian Hardy noticed the toy donation bins at Children's hospital were nearly empty. Officer Hardy promptly purchased a dozen bears, asked approval to use a police car and delivered the bears to the hospital's sick children.

The program grew each year as fellow officers watched Officer Hardy's generosity and wanted to participate. Now there are 22 law enforcement agencies participating and over 100,000 stuffed toys collected. A caravan of 80 police cars delivers the toys to the hospital and to the arms of waiting children.

In 2010, Carlsbad Police Department collected more than 300 Teddy bears from community members and city employees. If you would like to donate a new, with the tags still attached, stuffed bear or other animal, deliver it to the City of Carlsbad Police Department at 2560 Orion Way during regular business hours or to any of the agencies listed on the official website <http://sandiegoregionalteddybeardrive.com> before Dec 13, 2011. Thank you for participating.

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